

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /051 W

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R 180601Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7124

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

CINCPAC

UNCLAS CANBERRA 8432

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

ATMOSPHERICS:

THE NATIONAL ELECTION AND ITS POST MORTEM ANALYSIS WAS THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION FOR ALL AUSTRALIA. WHILE THE OUTCOME WAS A SURPRISE TO FEW, THE MAGNITUDE OF THE VICTORY FAR SURPASSED LIBERAL/COUNTRY PARTY EXPECTATIONS. POST ELECTION RECRIMINATIONS BEGAN IMMEDIATELY WITH SEVERAL LABOR PARTY STALWARTS ACTIVELY CONTESTING THE OPPOSITION LEADER'S MANTLE FROM GOUGH WHITLAM. EDITORIAL COMMENT RELATING TO US/AUSTRALIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS GENERALLY AGREED THE FRASER GOVERNMENT WAS MORE LIKELY TO DRAW CLOSER TO THE US IN STYLE, BUT THERE WAS LITTLE DIFFERENCE OF A SUBSTANTIVE NATURE SEPARATING THE TWO MAJOR AUSTRALIAN PARTIES ON US RELATIONS.

OCCASIONAL DIVERSIONS FROM DOMESTIC POLITICS LED TO A FEW EDITORIALS ON THE PORTUGUESE TIMOR ISSUE, ALL OF WHICH WERE CRITICAL OF INDONESIA'S ACTIONS AND URGED MORE SPECIFIC INVOLVEMENT AT THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL BY
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AUSTRALIA TO SOLVE THE CRISIS. THERE HAS BEEN A CONSTANT

STREAM OF NEWSSTORIES ON THE TIMOR SITUATION, THE LOCAL
STORIES GENERALLY SOURCED FROM DARWIN BASED UPON REPORTS
FROM FRETLIN SOURCES IN TIMOR.
MOUNT

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Disposition Event:
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